



Application No. 10/690,239

Amendment dated January 12, 2006

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION dated September 14, 2005

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A vapor decontamination system for decontaminating a defined region, said system comprising:
  - a chamber defining a region;
  - a generator for generating vaporized hydrogen peroxide from a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water;
  - a closed loop circulating system for supplying said vaporized hydrogen peroxide to said region, said closed loop circulating system defining a first fluid path;
  - a destroyer ~~within said closed loop circulating system~~ for breaking down said vaporized hydrogen peroxide disposed within said first fluid path upstream of said generator;
  - a bypass conduit bypassing said destroyer; and
  - a controller operable to cause vaporized hydrogen peroxide from said generator to bypass said destroyer during a predetermined phase of operation.
2. (original) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, wherein said controller is programmed to include a drying phase of operation, a conditioning phase of operation, a decontamination phase of operation and an aeration phase of operation.
3. (currently amended) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 2, wherein said controller causes said vaporized hydrogen peroxide [[VHP]] to bypass said destroyer during said conditioning phase.
4. (original) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, further comprising an air dryer downstream from said destroyer.

5. (currently amended) ~~[[In a]]~~ A decontamination system for decontaminating a region, said system having

- a generator for generating vaporized hydrogen peroxide,
- a closed loop system for supplying the vaporized hydrogen peroxide to said region~~[[ and]]~~,
- a destroyer for breaking down the vaporized hydrogen peroxide, disposed upstream of said generator in a first fluid path,
- a bypass conduit for causing fluid to flow through said closed loop system to bypass said destroyer, and
- a controller for controlling fluid flow through said bypass conduit.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A decontamination system as defined in ~~claim 6~~claim 5, further comprising valve means for controlling flow through either said first fluid flow path or said second fluid flow path.

8. (original) A decontamination system as defined in claim 7, wherein said controller causes fluid to flow through said second fluid flow path during a conditioning phase of said system.

9. (original) A decontamination system as defined in claim 8, wherein said system includes an air dryer where said air dryer is part of said first fluid flow path.

10. (currently amended) A closed loop, flow-through vapor phase decontamination system, comprising:

- a sealable chamber having an inlet port and an outlet port;

a closed loop conduit system having a first end fluidly connected to said inlet port and a second end fluidly connected to said outlet port;

a blower connected to said conduit system for re-circulating a carrier gas flow into, through and out of the chamber;

a source for delivering vaporized sterilant into said carrier gas flow upstream of said inlet port;

a destroyer downstream of said outlet port for destroying the vaporized sterilant;

wherein said blower, said source for delivering vaporized sterilant, and said destroyer are disposed within a first fluid path;

a bypass conduit for directing flow through said closed loop conduit system and through a second fluid path around said destroyer, wherein said blower and said source for delivering said vaporized sterilant are disposed within said second fluid path; and

a controller for controlling flow through said bypass conduit.

11. (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 10, wherein said sterilant is vaporized hydrogen peroxide [[(VHP)]].

12. (original) A system as defined in claim 11, wherein said controller directs flow through said second fluid flow path during a conditioning phase of operation.

13. (original) A system as defined in claim 10, further comprising an air dryer disposed downstream from said destroyer.

14. (original) A system as defined in claim 13, wherein said blower is disposed downstream from said chamber, between said destroyer and said chamber.